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PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 2003-IP-010320 U1 USA



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Neil Hepburn, et al.
Serial No.: 10/767,656
Filed: January 29, 2004
Entitled: SEALED BRANCH WELLBORE
TRANSITION JOINT
Group Art Unit: 3672
Examiner: House, Letoria G.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

As listed on the accompanying form PTO-SB-08, the Applicants hereby call the examiner's attention to the following information of which they are aware, in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR §1.56. Copies of the listed references, other than U.S. Patent documents, are enclosed with this Information Disclosure Statement.

U.S. Patent documents:

5,318,122 2003/0173092

Foreign documents:

GB 2388136 WO 02/20941 WO 03/008756

Search Report for U.K. application GB0501821.3

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97(b)(3), which provides for the timely filing of an Information Disclosure Statement before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits.

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Written notification that the listed documents have been considered in their entirety, by return of a copy of the enclosed form completed by the examiner, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

KONNEKER & SMITH, P.C.



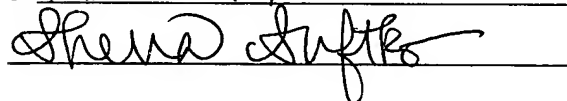
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/767,656
Filing Date	January 29, 2004
First Named Inventor	Neil Hepburn
Art Unit	3672
Examiner Name	House, Letoria G.
Attorney Docket Number	2003-IP-010320 U1 USA

Sheet	1	of	2
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U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	TS
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY			
		GB 2388136	11-05-2003	e2TECH Limited		
		WO 02/20941	03-14-2002	Jan Freyer		
		WO 03/008756	01-30-2003	Shell Int'l Research		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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